

Finding of No Significant Impact

Type of Action: Special Recreation Permit

Serial Number: FF096966

Applicant: Riley Pitts
DBA: Big Game Backcountry Guides

District: Arctic Field Office

Planning Unit: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
Colville River Special Area Management Plan
Western Arctic Resource Management Plan
Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan

Lands Involved: Proposed activity would take place in southern NPR-A and south southeast of the NPR-A in the vicinity of Etivlik Lake and Akuliak Lake.

Context and Intensity of Environmental Impacts

Based upon a review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by the Arctic Field Office and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, from a variety of activities including the types described in this EA, were analyzed in the NPR-A IAP/EIS (2012) and the 2008 Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP), the Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 1990, the 1991 Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP), and the 1989 Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The activities proposed for the current proposed action are similar in nature to those described in these documents.

No environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined at 40 CFR §1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. We reviewed the context of the Proposed Action and found that it would not result in any significant effects to resources and values in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and surrounding lands.

The following factors were considered in the EA to evaluate the significance of this proposal (40 CFR §1508.27): Beneficial and adverse impacts; effects on public health and safety; unique cultural or ecological areas within or near the project area; potentially controversial or uncertain effects; whether the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effect; cumulative effects; adverse impacts to important scientific, cultural or historical resources; effects to endangered or threatened species or habitat; or whether the

action threatens a violation of federal, state, local or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements.

Monitoring and Mitigation

BLM will monitor on the ground activities periodically. Mitigation measures will be implemented as described in Section 4.3 and Appendix B and C of the EA.

Conclusion

The proposed action, as submitted by the applicant and mitigating measures reviewed in the environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-AK010-2015-0012-EA), is found to have no significant impacts on the environment and will cause no undue or unnecessary degradation to the public lands. No permanent structures or facilities will result from the proposal. The impacts from the proposed action are short term and minimal. The action is found to be in conformance with existing land use plans for the area. Cumulative impacts are evaluated in the EA and the effects of all other reasonably foreseeable past present and future activities in the area, combined with this project are not cumulatively significant. The evaluation and finding done to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no significant restrictions to subsistence uses or resources.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the SRP be approved as described in the applicant's Plan of Operations. The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not recommended.

The applicant shall be subject to applicable stipulations, the Arctic Field Office standard stipulations entitled "ARCTIC FIELD OFFICE NON OIL AND GAS PERMIT STIPULATIONS" and "US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land-Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations", Best Management Practices from the NPR-A IAP/EIS 2013 ROD; project specific requirements determined in the EA and the mitigating measures incorporated into the applicant's Plan of Operations. Associated SRP will be approved under the authority of 43 CFR §2361.2 and 2930.

The action is also consistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (NPRPA, P.L. 94-258).

APPROVED:

/s/
Stacie McIntosh
Arctic Field Office Manager

5/6/2015

Date